

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 341

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, SP: DA

SUBJECT: DANISH ATTITUDE TOWARDS SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO
THE COMMON MARKET

1. DURING A LENGTHY MEETING I HAD ON JAN 29 WITH PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC MINISTRY, JENS CHRISTENSEN, WE DISCUSSED DANISH ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC-9. CHRISTENSEN IS DENMARK'S PRINCIPAL EXPERT ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WHO ATTENDS MANY MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS.

2. CHRISTENSEN TOLD ME THAT THE DANES FAVOR GIVING SPAIN NOW SOMETHING MORE THAN A FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENT BUT
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LESS THAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP. FOR EXAMPLE, THE FREE

TRADE AGREEMENT CAN BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS ON INDUSTRIAL AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE COMMON MARKET. THE DANES CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE SPANIARDS MUST DEMONSTRATE MORE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS BEFORE IT CAN BE ADMITTED INTO AN "INTIMATE" RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NINE. CHRISTENSEN COMMENTED THAT SPAIN IS NOT IN A POSITION, FOR EXAMPLE, TO FULFILL AT THIS TIME SOME OF THE CONDITIONS OF THE ROME TREATY SUCH AS PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. THE DANES AS WELL AS THE DUTCH AND THE BRITISH, CHRISTENSEN SAID, ARE WATCHING CLOSELY FOR INDICATIONS THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ALLOW FREE TRADE UNION ACTIVITY. AT THE RECENT CONFERENCE IN EHSLINGOR SPANISH SOCIALIST LEADER GONZALES PLEADED WITH OTHER LEADERS TO TAKE STRONG POSITION THAT AS LONG AS FREE TRADE UNION ACTIVITY IS NOT ALLOWED IN SPAIN, GOVERNMENTS OF THE NINE SHOULD NOT ALLOW HIS COUNTRY'S AFFILIATION WITH THE EC.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT IN CLOSED MEETINGS SOARES ADVISED THE SPANISH SOCIALISTS NOT TO BE TOO INTRANSIGENT ON THIS POINT. IF THE EXISTING PHALANGISTS TRADE UNION STRUCTURE IS RENT ASUNDER BEFORE THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR FORCES ARE TRAINED AND PREPARED TO EXERCISE LEADERSHIP, THE SITUATION WOULD BE OPEN TO COMMUNIST EXPLOITATION. SOARES CITED PORTUGAL AS AN EXAMPLE.

5. AS ANNOUNCED IN TODAY'S PRESS, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT COPENHAGEN MARCH 5 AND 6. CHRISTENSEN SAID THAT THERE MAY BE SOME SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST HIS VISIT BUT DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY IN COPING WITH IT. HE COMMENTED THAT THE MERE FACT THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO RECEIVE A FOREIGN MINISTER FROM SPAIN IS IN ITSELF AN IMPORTANT

STEP TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPLETELY NORMAL FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BEFORE THE TIME OF AREILZA'S ARRIVAL HERE, SPAIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC-9 WILL BE DISCUSSED AT TWO MINISTERIAL MEETINGS (FEB 9 AND 10 AND MARCH 1 AND 2) IN BRUSSELS.

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AS A RESULT OF THOSE MEETINGS, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE FULLY PREPARED TO SPELL OUT ITS POSITION TO AREILZA.
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